

REMARKS:

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

In an interview on April 27, 2006 with Attorneys Joshua D. Isenberg and Hao Y. Tung and inventor Brian M. Sager the Examiner discussed proposed amendments to claim 12. Although agreement was not reached as to amendments to the claims that would make them allowable, the Examiners indicated that amendments to claim 12 to remove the word "material" after "organic polymer" would distinguish over the prior art of record, specifically, previously cited US Patent 6,472,467 to Chiao.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 10 To expedite prosecution and improve readability, the Applicants have amended claim 12 to remove the word "material" after "organic polymer". Similar amendments have been made to claims 18, 20, 25, 26, 28 through 30 and 32 through 34 so that consistent language is used throughout the claims. The Applicants submit that these amendments merely make explicit that which was implicit in the claims as originally filed. As such, no new matter has been entered.
- 15 Furthermore, the Applicants submit that the amendments are being done to improve readability and do not represent a narrowing of any feature of the claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 USC 102

- Claim 12 has been amended to recite that barrier film comprises a plurality of layers consisting of an organic polymer wherein adjacent layers of the organic polymer material and inorganic material are covalently bonded to each other. Such a configuration of alternating layers is not shown or suggested in Chiao which the Examiner has characterized as having layers that are both organic and inorganic. Hence Chiao discloses multiple layers of inorganic/organic material, but none with layers consisting of an organic polymer. As Chiao fails to show or suggest the structure recited in amended claim 12 and its dependent claims. As such claims 12-35 are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, Applicants submit that the Examiner has not addressed the features of claim 29, namely that the organic polymer material layers are discrete layers of organic polymer material and that the layers of inorganic material are discrete layers of inorganic material. The Applicants submit that Chiao teaches a structure having layers of composite material, where the composite

material includes both an inorganic component that is intermixed with an organic component. Not only are these components not covalently bonded to each other, Chiao's intermixed organic and inorganic materials do not form covalently bonded discrete layers as set forth in claim 29. Therefore, for at least this additional reason, the Applicants submit that claim 29 defines an invention suitable for patent protection.

5 PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED CLAIMS 31-35

The Applicants submit that claims 31-33, which were added in the amendment of February 13, 2006, depend directly from claim 12 and are allowable over the prior art and is allowable for the reasons set forth above. In addition, with respect to claims 31 through 33, the Applicant submits that Chiao does not teach or suggest that self-assembling feature shown in Chiao. In addition, with respect to claim 34, the Applicant submits that Chiao does not teach or suggest that "layers of the organic material and adjacent layers of the inorganic material have different material compositions," as set forth in claim 34. With regards to claim 35, Applicant submits that Chiao does not teach or suggest layers consisting of an inorganic material. As such, and for at least 10 these additional reasons, the Applicants submit that claims 31-35 define an invention suitable for 15 patent protection.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants submit that all claims are allowable over the cited art and define an invention suitable for patent protection. The Applicants therefore respectfully 20 request that the Examiner enter the amendment, reconsider the application, and issue a Notice of Allowance in the next Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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